

# Polished Pebbles

**2011** Women constitute 58.1% of the work force in the United States.

**2009** President Barack Obama signs into law the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009. This is a federal statute in the United States that amends the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The new act states that the 180-day statute of limitations for filing an equal-pay lawsuit regarding pay discrimination resets with each new paycheck affected by that discriminatory action.

**2009** Ursula Burns becomes the First African American female CEO of a fortune 500 company. (Xerox)

**2009** 90 Women serve in Congress, which a record number thus far.

**1975-85** Women began to flood colleges and graduate schools, entering professions like Medicine, Law, Dental and Business Administration.

**1972** Shirley Chisholm campaigns for the Democratic presidential nomination.

**1987** Dr. Mae Jemison was selected as the First African American Women Astronaut through NASA and served program from 1987 to 1993.

**1989** Women constitute 45% of employed persons in the United States, with a small share of the decision making jobs.

**1968** Shirley Chisholm becomes the first African American woman to be elected to Congress, winning in New York.

**1964** Title VII of the Civil Rights Act bans discrimination in employment on the basis of race and sex.

**1963** The Equal Pay Act makes it illegal for employers to pay a woman less than a man for the same job, although women are still being paid 45% less than men.

**1920** Women's role is expanded as they enter the workforce during World War I.

**1917** Women win the right to vote.

**1872** Congress passes a law to give female federal employees equal pay for equal work.

**1867** Born in 1867, during the second half of the 19th century, Sarah Breedlove better known as Madam C.J. Walker created a complete range of hair care products for black women, which sold throughout the country. Madam C.J. Walker, daughter of slaves from Louisiana, became the first African American Million-

## History of Women in the Workplace

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